A synopsis on

Socio-economic problems of the girls below eighteen and their alleviation in Bolpur-Sriniketan Community Development Block in Birbhum District, West Bengal

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STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

The status of women in India has been subjected to many great changes over the past few millennia with a decline in their status from the ancient to medieval times. To the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. In modern India, women have held high officers. Women rights are secured under the Constitution of India mainly equality, dignity and freedom from discrimination; further, India has various statutes governing the rights of women. In spite of the importance of women there are some dark sides of the society showing that people killing baby girl in mother's womb i.e. Foeticides. Girl children are exploited in many places of the society. In rural areas girl children are getting early marriage and harassment is going on. They have been killed for dowry. Educated women are also harassed in work-place, streets. Girl children and women are also 'eve-teased' by the un-cultured men. Girl children and adolescents are abused and exploited by some criminals in the society.

There are some problems which make difficult for girls to get their proper education. The poorer section of the society, can't afford the cost of schooling for their children. In the rural areas girl children do not show interest to go to school because many schools haven't proper sanitation facility and school building are not good for students' education in few cases. In remote rural areas school children have not proper transport facility to go to their schools.

Social structure of Indian society is a very complicated issue. The country got lower literacy rate in many states, because in some States education is highly associated with the caste, ethnicity, and religion. Girls or women are neglected the society. These are the barriers for proper education of a girl child.

In India, the trend of decline in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is defined as the number of girls per 1000 boys in between 0-6yrs age group. It was started to decline from 1961. The decline from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and 918 in 2011.

The decline in the CSR rate is a major indicator of women's dis-empowerment. Pre-birth discrimination are done through gender biased sex selection and post birth discrimination are against for girls. Due to increasing rate of sex selective elimination of girls leading to low child sex ratio. To prevent gender biased sex selective elimination, survival

and protection of girl child and emerging education and participation of girl child in the Govt. as well as Non-Govt sectors more and more.

So, for survival, protection and empowerment of girl child, Govt of India and State Govt of all states announced many projects and Prakalpo's. Under Pradhan Mantri Yojona "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" and "Sukanya" projects are going on through out the country. This is being implemented through a National Campaign. This project is a joint venture of Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Kanyashree Prakalpo is implemented by Govt of West Bengal. The prakalpo seeks to improve the status and well being of girls who belong to socio-economically disadvantage family group. Main objectives of Kanyashree Prakalpo are to ensure girls to stay in the school upto minimum 18yrs of age to prevent child marriage.

LITERATURE SURVEY AND REVIEW:

Various scientists all over the world are very much aware of the discriminate behaviour which are made against the girl children and adolescents. As for example **Lawrence Summers** observed that all girl children and adolescents should be educated properly and should be given vocational, technical or sports training by which they will become self-sufficient in the society. Therefore, the above author opined that investment in the education for girls and adolescents may provide the highest return. **Harry Patrinos** is a renowned Economist ot the World Bank. He is also in favour of educating most of the girls in the society. He advocated that the profitability of education provides rate of return is indisputable, universal and global. The scientists of World Banks have also studied the significance of education of the girl children and adolescents in our society. Therefore, World Bank report says that the girls are underrepresented in schooling, meaning that the investments in specifically educating women should produce bigger dividends. Women's education also increases the equitability of the distribution of wealth in a society. In several studies made by **U.N** referred the millennium developments Goal is to close the gender disparity. According to **U.N's Scientists** education of women is one of the major variables behind the changing rates of social & economic development. Women education also changes the growth of gross domestic product of the country. **Bunwarree** advocated that education of girl children and adolescents are important issue. Education increases women participation in the society. Education raises the occupational aspirations for the girls.

Boissiere, Knight & Sobat(1996) studied the nature of skills which women secure in Bahrain. They have surveyed and analysed that there exists large and significant gender gap in cognitive skills in rural parts of Baharin. Further, **Former U.N Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley** observed the growing importance of education to make women very much skilful. It has global impact over the world. He also opined the growing importance of women education is a new international development. **Dr. Phillip Cook's** prepared his report on the International Child Right Education. He suggested that education for all as the need for the quality & right based education was identified as one of the most potent protective mechanism for children and families. Inter Press Service described the declaration of the summit which took place in the Latin America in 1998. The resolution of the summit says that education particularly for the girl and adolescents and related issues are the backbone of development of a country. **Vijaya Kumar** et al co-related the well being of women with their economic condition. According to them rural poverty is one of the most important factors of India. In India 47% of the people live below poverty-line. Daily income of the rural people are minimum than the country's average income. In case of women, better health care & higher educational opportunities are dreams for their children. Also to them, no vocational training centre is accessible to them.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study possesses following objectives:

i. To find out the distribution of child sex ratio and sex ratio at birth over time and space and to get the idea about female Foeticide.
ii. To study the nature of measures which are taken for survival of girl children and adolescents, nature of protective measures and health care facilities available and accessible particularly to the girl children and adolescents.
iii. To observe to what extent the girl children and adolescents are engaged in different jobs.
iv. To find out the nature of educational status that the girl children and adolescents have and to observe the nature and magnitude of school drop outs from f different classes.
v. To find out the causes for child marriage of girl adolescents and their distribution.
vi. To find out the strategy which is adopted by State Govts, in the form of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao yojona, Sukanya Yojona and Kanyashree Prakalpo** and to examine the nature of beneficial effects and demerits arising out of them.

DATA BASE:

Data will be collected from both the primary & secondary sources which are discussed below:

NAME OF CHAPTER	NATURE OF DATA	SOURCES OF DATA
Socio-economic characteristics of households of kanyas.	Land holding, occupation, education status, caste, family member.	From field investigation and questionnaire survey.
Distribution and its causes of sex ratio at birth and Child Sex Ratio.	Birth sex ratio, child sex ratio (0-6 age), socio-economic status, literacy, income, % of poor people, dowry system, religion, natural causes, sex-selective abortion, female mortality.	Panchayet and Municipality, Census report, Bolpur police station, Medical Institution, field investigation and questionnaire survey
Measure for survival of the newly born baby, protective measures, availability of health care facilities.	Female literacy, crude death rate, infant mortality rate(male and female), child sex ratio, MMR (Maternity mortality rate), literacy, employment, fertility rate, age at marriage, body mass index, health and nutrition, nutritional deficiency, mother's education, school enrolment at primary level, gross enrolment ratio. Child protection for violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, social welfare, education, health, security, justice, reduce social exclusion, lower the risk of separation, prisoner, child labour, prostitution, child tracking.	Census Report, Panchayet & Municipality Office, Medical Institute, D.I's of school Education Dept. & Govt. Website. Hospital and Medical Institute, District Census Handbook, Field survey, Questionnaire survey. Police Station, child Welfare Office, Municipality & Panchayet Office, Ministry of child welfare, Court & Juvenile court.
Girl Children and adolescents Work-force.	Low income, illiteracy, ignorance of parents, big size family, expensive education, havoc unemployment, idle, wage rate.	Field investigation, questionnaire survey, census, Labour Commission Office
Educational Status and	Number of girl students	Di's of school Dept. Office,

distribution of school drop-outs of Girl Children and adolescents.	studying in different classes, future educated generation, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate(MMR), number of child marriage, population explosion, domestic and sexual violence, monthly income. Number of drop-outs of girl children from different classes, income, parents death, household chores, school at distance, teacher's attitude, lack of free education, migration, lack of school, lack of toilet and facilities, high age, fail in class examination.	field survey, questionnaire survey, Panchayet and Municipality Office, Hospital and Medical Institute, Police Station. Office of the Labour Commission. Hospital and Medical Institute, District Census Handbook.
Causes and distribution of child and adolescent married girls.	Number of child married girls and causes.	Police Station, G.P Office, Field investigation and questionnaire survey.
The strategies to alleviate issues.	Data regarding Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojona, Sukanya yojona and Kanyashree Prakalpo.	Field and questionnaire survey, data from D.M Office, Dept of Women and Child Development, Social Welfare Dept at different levels.
Impact of these Yojona's and Prakalpo's in the society.	Data on impact.	Field and questionnaire survey, data from D.M Office Kanyashree Cell, Dept of Women and Child Development, Dept. Of Women Social Welfare Dept at different levels.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology is splitted into three parts

a. **Pre-field**
b. **Field**
c. **Post-field**

Al though all three parts are separately identified as significant however sometimes one part may overlap others. As for example the post-field research enquiries may overlap on field methodology or field methodology may also overlap on field methodology. However, these three parts are integrated.

A. Pre-field:

Pre-field methodology means the research activities which are performed prior to the field work. It includes two components-

I. Selection of study area like G.P, Villages & Households. All the G.P's are taken into consideration. From each G.P. one village which has lowest child sex ratio will be selected for the intensive survey. The households where kanya resides will be selected for sample survey. The selection of households will be made after considering kanya's different caste groups. As for example -high caste Hindu, middle caste Hindu, O.B.C Hindu &), S.C and S.T. Also Muslim general caste, Muslim (OBC-A & OBC-B) both.

II. Preparation of questionnaire is another component where at first different basic questions are set according to the objectives of the study. So that the answer of these questions will satisfy the analysis of thesis and by integrating all these objectives. The entire thesis will be written. After setting of these trial questionnaires the research scholar has to approach to her study area and carry out her household survey. She will find that some questions become irritable to the heads of the households. These questions are either refused or remain unanswered. Then the research scholar has to modify such questions in such way so that the heads feel free and easy to answer them. This process is known as "field-reconssaince". After field-reconssaince the trial questionnaire will be modified and transformed into final questionnaire.

B. Field:

As the selection of the study area and study households have become ready then the research scholar will start her field work. In this part sometimes she may find some difficulty as to get correct answers from the heads because some heads may feel uncomfortable to answer truely which may cause harm to him. In that case she has to question the heads in indirect fashion cleverly. So that the reality will come true.

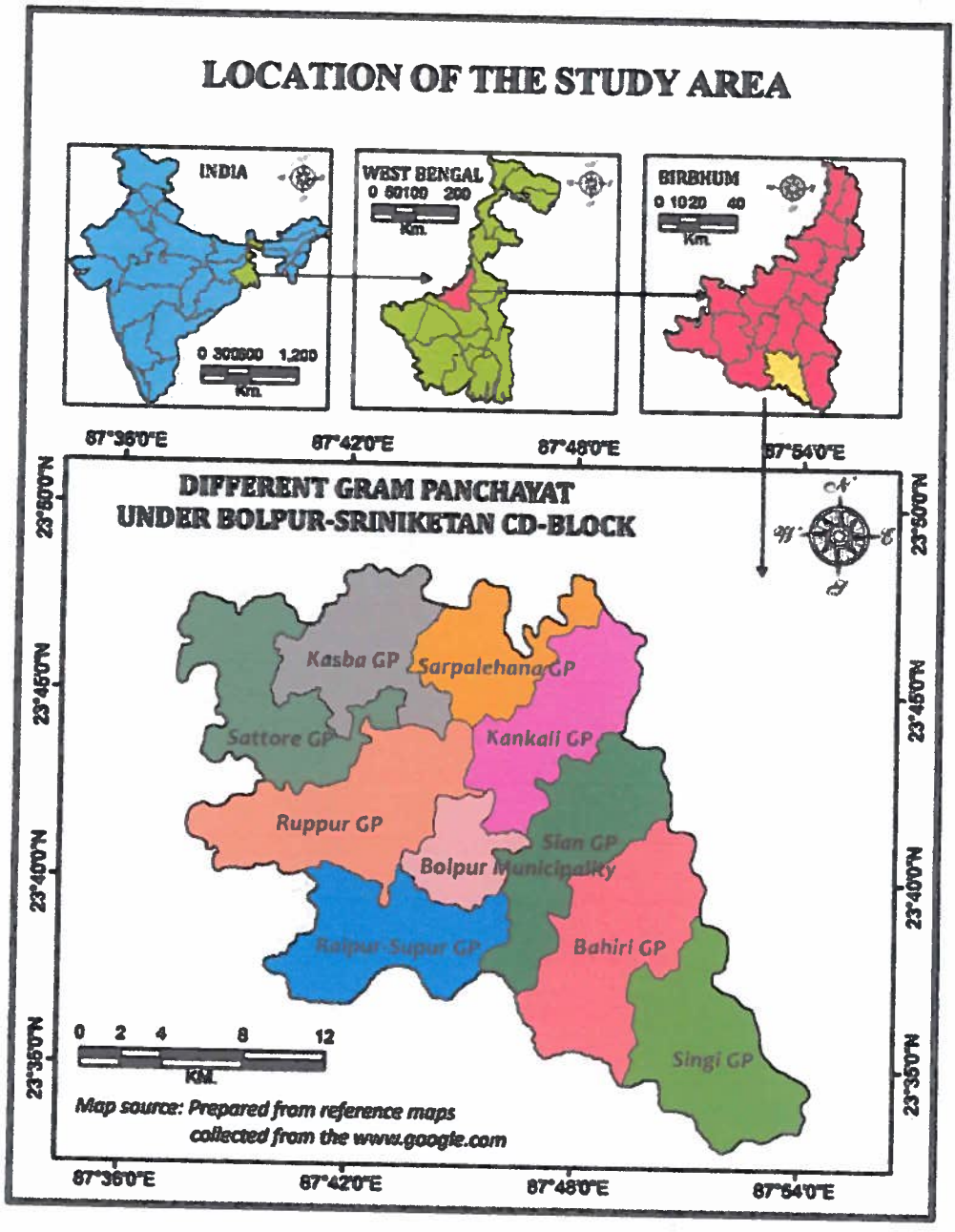
C. **Post-field:**

After the collection of raw data these will be enlisted in a master-table where all the questions are elaborately explained. The master-table consisting of the data which are scale and size biased. These are needed to be transformed into scale and size free by applying appropriate statistical techniques. Thus, the raw data are converted into indicators. Then these indicators will be statistically processed and tables are formulated. Besides different cartographic techniques are also applied which will help to visualize the real world situation of the study area. Sometimes G.I.S techniques will be applied by which scientific maps will be prepared. The cause and effect relationships of the indicators will be shown by means of linkage diagrams. Then all these statistical tables, maps and diagrams are analysed systematically through scientific procedure which will complete the entire thesis.

LOCATION AND SELECTION OF THE STUDY AREA:

Bolpur –Sriniketan Community Development Block has been chosen for the present study. These C.D Block consists of nine G.Ps and one study village will be selected from each G.P.

Bolpur-Sriniketan C.D Block is a significant area in respect of its location within the Sub-divission and District. As for example- a World renowned Central University is located here. Besides, Bolpur Broadguage Railway Station connects the surrounding areas directly and indirectly. Metal roads are aligned to develop higher order of transport connectivity within and outside the district. Thus each and every settlement has become more accessible from transport point of view and are connected with link roads,. Several Govt developmental planning measures are started within the area which is expected to develop the socio-economic status of this block. The economy of entire C.D Block is identified as a agricultural area where large numerical strength of cultivators, agricultural labourer have become prominent. The favourable technological institutional infrastructural factors operate positively over the active environment. Thus the natural, social and economic resources are ideally converted into endowments which develop the socio-economy of the C.D Block. The inter-linked sectoral development between primary-secondary and tertiary sectors have increased the scope of employment and generated larger employment of skilled and unskilled labours. Several Govt. Plans are in operation to develop the skill of the common people to increase the number of employed persons.



Under such a favourable environment it will be quite interesting and necessary to find out how female category of population is treated for their physical and economic development. It will be quite worthy to study the nature and magnitude of birth sex ratio and child sex ratio of the C.D Block which may highlight the problems of Female Foeticides, survival, protection and education of the girl children and adolescent. It is also study worthy that to what extent the girl children are engaged in several low paid jobs and what are the causes for school drop-outs of the girl children. The study will also be carried on about to what extent the adolescent girl children are forced to enter into family life through early child

marriage. All these adverse activities of our society weaken the female section of our entire population. Because the girl children in future will help to develop economic activities. To confront these adverse situation the Govt. has launched most necessary Yojona and Prakalpo which are known as" Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" , "Sukanya " and " Kanyashree". The main objectives of the programme are to confront these adverse activities which go against the physical growth and economic development of female community. It is noteworthy to study all these adverse aspects and impact on the present society and economy of Bolpur – Sriniketan C.D.Block. For these reason this particular block has been chosen for the purpose of study.

CHAPTER SCHEME:

The present study will be performed by means of following chapters:

Chapter-1: Introduction:

A. Conceptual framework
B. Statement of problem
C. Research questions
D. Data base-
    i. Nature of data
    ii. Sources of data
E. Objectives of the study
F. Methodology-
    i. Pre-field
    ii. Field
    iii. Post-field
G. Location and selection of the study area
H. Chapter scheme

Chapter-2: Literature Survey and Review

Chapter-3: Historical Perspectives

Chapter-4: Geographical Appraisal

Chapter-5: Socio-economic characteristics of households of kanyas and distribution and its causes of sex ratio at birth and Child Sex Ratio.

Chapter-6: Measure for survival of the newly born baby, protective measures, availability of health care facilities.

Chapter-7: Girl Children and adolescents Work-force.

Chapter-8: Educational Status and distribution of drop-outs and survival of Girl Children and adolescent.

Chapter-9: Causes and distribution of child and adolescent married girls.

Chapter-10: The strategies to alleviate issues.

Chapter-11: Impact of these Yojona's and Prakalpo's in the societies.

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